

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1X 1. India places great emphasis on the need for a friendly Bhutan. Almost daily the Indian Government expresses its friendship and allows no action which may cause Bhutan the slightest trouble. Its concern is obviously the protection a friendly Bhutan, a key border state, can give India's northeast frontier. Bhutan is also desirous of friendly relations with India, not so much because of a Communist threat from Tibet, but because it realizes its dependency on India for trade and communication with the outside world. [redacted] the Chinese Communist control of Tibet has caused India to work harder than Bhutan in establishing closer ties between the two.

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2. The ethnic boundaries of Bhutan were almost completely established by the 1949 Bhutan-India Treaty which gave to Bhutan 32 square miles of Indian territory. There does not exist any sizeable areas outside the 1953 Bhutan boundaries which are ethnically Bhutanese. However, India, in its eagerness to keep Bhutan friendly, could possibly cede for ethnic reasons very small parts adjacent to Bhutan. Exactly which parts would be involved could be determined only when negotiations to that end begin.

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3. [redacted] the Chinese were making the Sikang to Lhasa route motorable and building necessary bridges along the way. They are proceeding with this work at a feverish pace. They are also working, though not so hard, on a road from Sikang to Assam. They are not building a road from Lhasa to Sikkim [redacted]. news of road construction in Tibet other than the two they have mentioned is merely Chinese Communist propaganda.

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